Work programme are contained in the Scheme. The records of lifting, storage, transportation and distribution of foodgrains (Rice or Wheat) are being maintained at the District level. The Relief Commissioner/Collector/DRDA of the State concerned are required to submit Utilization Certificate to the Ministry of Rural Development and to the Ministry of Agriculture. The Programme is being regularly monitored through Monthly Progress Reports in the prescribed format which are to be submitted the State Governments concerned by the 10th of every month.

Meeting with State Governments on the issue of terrorism

*59. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) when was the last high level meeting called by Home Ministry to discuss the issue of terrorism with the representatives of State Governments;

(b) the details thereof including the agenda of the meeting and also the names of the representatives of State Governments;

(c) what were the views expressed by each of the State Government on this issue;

(d) what was the consensus arrived at in the meeting; and

(e) what are the details of steps taken by State Governments in order to combat terrorism in their respective States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) A conference of Chief Ministers on Internal Security was held on 17th November, 2001. Almost all the States except those of Goa and Meghalaya were represented at the Conference. This was preceded by a meeting of Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of all States/UTs on the subject of Internal Security, on 5th October, 2001. The threat of terrorism and the strategies to combat it dominated the discussions in both the meetings.

While sensitizing the States about various challenges in the internal

security scenario of the country, such as Pak sponsored terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, inter-linked and externally supported subversive activities of militant groups in the North-East and the violence perpetrated by the Left Wing Extremist groups in some States, their attention was specially invited to the new dimension of terrorism that had emerged in the wake of terrorist attacks in USA on 11th September, 2001. The possibility of use of Weapons of Mass Destruction was also highlighted as an area of immediate concern. States were requested to act upon such recommendations of the Group of Ministers on national security as pertained to them. Various steps to strengthen the governmental machinery were also discussed.

(c) and (d) All State Governments appreciated the need to tackle terrorism effectively and firmly and there was a general consensus on the matters related there to. Most of the Chief Ministers supported the need to have an anti-terrorism law though some Chief Ministers felt that the Government should have enacted this law after prior consultation with all the political parties. It was agreed that this would be discussed with the Opposition Parties, before bringing in a replacement Bill for the Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance, 2001.

(e) State Governments have taken numerous steps to contain terrorism by way of strengthening and modernizing their State Police Forces with the assistance of the Central Government, upgrading the training of the State Police in Anti-militancy operations, collection and sharing of intelligence and coordinated action with the Central agencies and security forces. The Central Government provides assistance by way of reimbursement of security related expenditure to Jammu & Kashmir, North Eastern States and left wing extremism affected States. Para-Military Forces are also provided as per the requirement of State Governments.